and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) led by high level officials visited Kuwait recently. A delegation from the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) is also likely to visit Kuwait during this month.

(b) M/s. Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL), a Public Sector enterprise, have secured contracts of approximately of the order of $ 20 million, and about 250 technicians from TCIL are employed. Besides, some private transportation companies are reported to have secured orders for roughly $10 million.

Export of Agricultural Products to Gulf Countries

2365. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to send a delegation to gulf countries to discuss and finalise the export of agricultural products, processed food items and spices; and

(b) if so, the total foreign exchange likely to be earned from the export of these products?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) A seven member trade delegation of leading Indian exporters headed by Chairman, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has recently visited three Gulf countries for the promotion and export of agricultural products, processed foods and spices.

(b) As export is an on-going process, the total foreign exchange likely to be earned cannot be estimated.

Supply to Consumer Goods to Kuwait

2366. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation propose to resume the supply of consumer goods to Kuwait;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMRCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. STC has posted a Manager in Kuwait recently.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Border Clashes with Pakistan

2367. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and nature of border clashes with Pakistan during the last one year;

(b) the number of persons killed/wounded on Indian side in these clashes;

(c) the compensation paid to family of the victimss and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (d) No border clashes took place on the Indo-Pak borders between the security forces of India and Pakistan during the last year. However, there have been incidents of exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistani forces across the Line of Control and in the Siachen Glacier region in J & K, during this period resulting in some casualties on both sides. It would not be desirable to disclose details.

2. The Directors General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan have been in weekly telephonic contact with each other.

3. Next of kin of Army personnel who are treated as battle casualties are authorised liberalised pensionary benefits as per details given below :

Liberalised Pensionary award :

(a) Liberalised Family pension at the rate of last pay drawn till death or disqualification.